SALZBURG SUMMIT

14th Conference of European Regions and Cities

Europe 1918 – 2018 – 2118

from Sunday, 30th September 2018 until Tuesday, 2nd October 2018
Salzburg Congress, Austria

Under the Honorary Patronage of
Alexander van der Bellen
President of the Republic of Austria
Shortly after the informal meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the EU Member States on 20th of September 2018 in Salzburg, from 30th September to 2nd October 2018 – also in Salzburg – within the framework of and in cooperation with the Austrian EU Presidency, the 14th Conference of European Regions and Cities of the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE). This conference is dedicated to the main topics of the Austrian Presidency and – as in previous conferences - important special topics, which are significant especially for the regions and municipalities of Europe, companies, institutions of administration, science and research.

The main topics are “Subsidiarity and Europe”, “What became of the Europe of its founding fathers?” and “What will become of Europe”. For the discussions and lectures, we were able to win outstanding and prominent speakers, whom I sincerely thank for coming to Salzburg. The special discussions address the question of how Europe is preparing for its digital future, the future of energy in Europe and the existential issue of rural depopulation in Europe and how to counteract it.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this conference being held: The Austrian Federal Government, especially Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Federal Minister Gernot Blümel, the Land and the City of Salzburg, in particular Governor Wilfried Haslauer and Mayor Harald Preuner and all our sponsors and cooperation partners. And of course the small but extremely dedicated IRE team around Secretary General Joachim Fritz. May this conference – which is a highlight in the series of these events – be of interest to all participants, and in particular to the hopefully large number of young people – not only of interest, but of lasting value as well.
Sunday, 30th September 2018

Salzburg Congress  
Auersperstraße 6, 5020 Salzburg  
Herbert von Karajan-Saal, 1st floor,  
5020 Salzburg, Austria

Conference languages: German, English, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian

11:45 Registration  
(Opening of the Partner and Exhibition Area, 1st floor)

12:00 Welcome Lunch

13:00 IRE-General Assembly 2018  
(only IRE members are entitled to vote, guests are welcome)

Presentation of Erasmus+ Programme  
Melanie Jacobs, Deputy Director European Solidarity Corps, National Agency for the EU-Youth Mobility Programme Erasmus+: Youth in Action, Vienna, Austria

14:00 Networking Coffee Break
14th Conference of European Regions and Cities

Sunday
30 September
2018

14:30
Official Opening Address
Franz Schausberger, IRE-Chairman, Salzburg, Austria

15:00
IRE Forum: The force of regions – Subsidiarity and Europe

Moderation: Franz Schausberger, Professor of Modern Austrian History, IRE-Chairman

Winfried Böttcher, Political scientist, former Professor at the Institute for Political Science at the RWTH Aachen, Germany

Martin Eichtinger, Member of the Regional Government, Housing, Work and International Affairs, St. Pölten, Austria

Anna Gamper, Professor of Public Law at the University of Innsbruck, Austria

Reinhold Lopatka, Member of the Austrian Parliament, Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, Member of the Task Force Subsidiarity, Vienna, Austria

Alexander Miesen, President of the Parliament of the german-speaking community of Belgium, Eupen, Belgium

Martin Rhonheimer, Professor of Ethics and political Philosophy at the Pontifical University of Santa Croce in Rome, Vienna, Austria

17:00 End of the IRE-Forum
18:15 Bus shuttle to the Residenz Salzburg (Departure: Salzburg Congress)
19:00 Reception upon the invitation of Governor of Land Salzburg Wilfried Haslauer and Mayor of Salzburg Harald Preuner at the Residenz, Residenzplatz 1, “Carabinieri Hall”, 5020 Salzburg, Austria
22:00 End
22:15 Bus shuttle to the conference hotels
Monday, 1st October 2018

Salzburg Congress, “Europe Plenary Hall”, 2nd floor
Conference Languages: German, English, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian

Festive Event
Europe 1918 – 2018 – 2118

A review of the founding ideas and founding years of the common Europe, which was completely redesigned 100 years ago, a critical assessment of what emerged from the Founding Fathers’ Europe and the attempt to develop scenarios for the future of Europe, are the main topics of this conference theme “Europe 1918 – 2018 – 2118”.

Registration

Welcome and opening

Franz Schausberger, IRE Chairman, Salzburg, Austria
Wilfried Haslauer, Governor of Salzburg, Austria
Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Brussels, Belgium
Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Federal Minister of Women, Families and Youth in personal representation for Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, Vienna, Austria
Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the National Council of Austria, Vienna, Austria

Wilfried Haslauer, Johannes Hahn, Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Wolfgang Sobotka
1. What became of the Europe of its founding fathers?

The end of World War I cleared the way for a complete reorganization of Europe with the formation of many new nation states.

After the horrors of the Second World War, the political leaders realized that only through the integration of the European states, peace can be secured. Seventy years ago, on the 7th of May 1948, the Congress for European Unity in The Hague, chaired by Winston Churchill, called for a European Consultative Assembly and a European Special Council to prepare for the political and economic integration of European states, the adoption of a human rights charter and the Creation of a European Court of Justice. Ten years later, on 1st of January 1958, the Treaties of Rome came into force and with them the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) began their activities.

We have succeeded in inviting descendants and confidants of the founding fathers of the European Union to our conference in Salzburg. They will describe their personal memories and discuss whether the European Union has developed in the spirit of the founding fathers. A unique opportunity to hear contemporary witnesses from the founding years of the common Europe.
2. What will become of Europe?

From history, we should learn that the future, despite all the experiences of the past, ultimately remains unpredictable, and predictions do not always turn out to be correct. What a future-oriented policy should do, however, is to develop possible scenarios about what the future might be like.

In this sense, the European Commission presented a White Paper on 1st of March 2018 outlining the possible future development of the European Union in five scenarios. Of these five, the Austrian EU Presidency focuses on one thing: “Less but more efficient”. According to this, the EU of the future 27 Member States should focus on achieving more results more quickly in selected policy areas, but less in other areas. In this sense, a task force on subsidiarity has been set up by the European Commission, the results of which are already available. The Austrian Presidency has chosen the motto “A Europe that protects”, which certainly does not go back very much to the great challenge of refugee movements and illegal migration. In the panel discussion “What will become of Europe?” and optimistic scenarios and solutions, based on the commitment to a common Europe, will be discussed and developed.

What will become of Europe?

LIVE broadcast on ORF III

Moderation: Manfred Perterer, Editor-In-Chief, Salzburger Nachrichten, Austria

Keynote: Prinz Asfa-Wossen Asserate, Political Analyst, Ethiopian-German Business Consultant, Bestselling Author (“African Exodus: Mass Migration and the Future of Europe”)

Enver Hoxhaj, Deputy Prime Minister, Pristina, Kosovo
Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions, Brussels, Belgium
Genc Pollo, Former Minister, Chairman of the Committee for European Policy of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, Tiranë
Andrä Rupprechter, Former Minister, Principal Adviser to the General Secretariat of the Council, Vienna, Austria
Nini Tsiklauri, Co-founder of “Pulse of Europe Austria”, Artist, Musician, Singer and Author with Georgian roots, Vienna, Austria
Ivan Vejvoda, Institute of Human Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

Lunch Break
3. Europe: The future is digital

Internet and digital technologies have opened up a new world with many new opportunities as well as new threats. The digital single market can help boost employment and growth, competition, investment and innovation, provide better services, modernize public services and create many new jobs. The aim is to strengthen the European economy against the influence of large international Internet companies.

The Digital Agenda for Europe 2020 is a program of the EU and its Member States on Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Its core objectives relate to the areas of digital society, digital economy, research, health and innovation and the expansion of the necessary IT infrastructure.

Unfortunately, we have to realize that digitization also has its downsides. Cybercrime, digital blackmail and terrorism, hate mailing, online child pornography, the threat to privacy and the misuse of personal data by digitally savvy criminals are becoming frightening and a huge challenge for the judiciary and the executive.

The discussion on the future of Europe will focus on three areas:

1. Europe and migration, particularly in Africa (Prince Asfra-Wossen Asserate)
2. Europe: „Doing Less, More Efficiently“ – centralized or decentralized (Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Andrä Rupprechter, Nini Tsiklauri)
3. Europe and its Enlargement (Enver Hoxhaj, Genc Pollo, Ivan Vejvoda)
4. The future of energy in Europe

Europe strives to reach 32 percent of the total energy consumption by 2030, an ambitious target. What contribution can and must be made by the European level, Member States, regions, cities and municipalities? Pushing ahead with climate protection, making the energy market more efficient, ensuring energy security, making the self-consumption of renewable energies simpler and cheaper: all of this can only succeed in a concerted interaction of all political levels in Europe. In order to achieve their climate goals, the EU states must in the future significantly increase the share of electricity from renewable energies. How can the share of renewable energy be increased, how long can and should priority be given to it? Especially for small systems, such as the solar system on a family home. How do we solve the conflict between wind energy plants and landscape conservation? Questions that particularly affect the regions in Europe. Much of this should be discussed in this panel.
5. Rural Depopulation – the fate of rural areas in Europe?

The horror reports have been coming from all over Europe for years: closing shops, leaving houses, doctors and infrastructure missing, rural communities and villages dying. The population is declining, especially young people and many more young women are turning their backs on the country, moving to the cities in search of work, education and cultural attractions. Forecasts indicate that by 2050, around 70 percent of the world’s population will live in cities. These will no longer be able to meet the resulting challenges in the area of transport, housing and education. Rural depopulation is not irreversible. There are also encouraging examples of the countermovement. Because it has great advantages to live in the countryside, in regions and in villages, especially when it comes to quality of life. Innovative ideas can make it possible for social life to stay in place. That young families can stay in or return to rural areas, basic facilities should be given: kindergarten, school, local supply, jobs, good internet and transport connections, to be able to shape everyday life. This panel is about positive examples of trend reversal.
Please note that this event is being photographed and filmed. By attending the event, you agree to being filmed or photographed which may be used for marketing or promotional purpose (print, online, social networks, etc).

Media workstations are available on the 1st floor.

Arrival

The IRE recommends that participants use environmentally friendly transportation to the conference venues. The Bus stop “Kongresshaus” and “Mirabellplatz” are regularly approached from all directions (bus line 2, 3, 4, 5, 25, 27, Bus A). For detailed information on public transport please visit: www.salzburg-verkehr.at

If you arrive by private car, we kindly ask you to voluntarily calculate your Co2-footprint and compensate it (visit www.climateaustria.at). The Salzburg Congress offers paid parking spaces.

Thank you very much for your contribution!

Distance (km) to the main points of interest

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Practical Information

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All other participants pay 390.-- EUR conference fee.

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The IRE organizes this conference on the criteria of the Austrian Ecolabel.